



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Riviera Travel River Cruises**.

Riviera packages

RIVIERA Travel River Cruises has unveiled a number of air credit, accommodation, tours, and cruise packages.

The 'Medieval Marvels of Europe' is a 21-night fly-stay-cruise package from \$10,999 per person, featuring a four-night stay in a five-star hotel in Amsterdam and a 14-night river cruise.

There is also a 'Paris & Provence Palette' 12-night fly-cruise-stay package from \$6,999 per person which includes a seven-night river cruise and two train transfers - see more on **page 3**.

Confirmed: RCI developing new ship class

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) Chief Executive Michael Bayley (**pictured**) has confirmed the veracity of swirling rumours the cruise line is currently working on a new class of ships to follow its high-profile Icon-class.

Bayley said the next phase of RCI's ship development plan, currently in preliminary plan stages, will be to ultimately replace its ageing Vision- and Radiance-class vessels with a revamped model.

"They are beautiful ships and beautifully constructed but like me and others they are getting older so we are now conceiving thoughts and ideas about how we are going to replace those ships with a new class for Royal Caribbean," he added.

"We have already done a fair amount of work within the brand in terms of the concepting process, but these still have to go



through the corporate machine, through the board and through a process, but we are actively working on trying to figure out what that would look like".

Bayley added from what he has seen from the early planning phases, the new class of RCI ships "look fantastic".

"We really do have some great ideas on the table and I could tell

you a few now but I'm not going to," he quipped.

At a later immersion session, RCI Chief Product and Innovation Officer Jay Schneider declined to be drawn on the exact size of the new class, but confirmed it won't be as large as the Icon class.

"The new class of ships will not be the world's largest class of ship, we are starting smaller and have not put a size to it yet but it will definitely be a 'mic drop ship' [like Icon]," Schneider noted.

"It will take the same attention to detail [of Icon], that same level of focus on experience to achieve something like this but just at a different scale," he added.

RCI has two more Icon-class ships on order to launch next year (*Star of the Seas*) and in 2026.

Schneider said the name of the third vessel has been chosen (**CW** 16 Jan), but has not yet been released to the public. **AB**

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ONE of the joys of cruising is spotting the sights of the ocean, but one Bondi lifeguard found something particularly remarkable in the waters off the famous beach.

The lifeguard found what appeared to be a \$200,000 brick of cocaine, in footage which emerged on *The Sydney Morning Herald's* website.

The brick has "Zoe" printed on the front, leading many to wonder exactly who owns the large quantity of drugs.

Quark adds new ship



QUARK Expeditions is set to introduce *Ocean Explorer* (pictured) to its polar fleet, a 138-passenger ship which will set sail for the line at the start of the Antarctic 2024/2025 season.

The company is currently taking bookings on *Ocean Explorer* for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 Antarctic sailing seasons and her 2025 Arctic program.

Ocean Explorer recently sailed for Aurora Expeditions, which is set to welcome its third ship next year (*CW* 31 Aug 2023), replacing the Quark-bound vessel.

The ship features extensive adventure capability, with a fleet of 15 Zodiacs as well as spacious staterooms with a modern design, a roomy gym, sauna with large windows, two outdoor Jacuzzis, a two-storey forward lounge, and the distinctive X-Bow, which is found on ships throughout Antarctica.

"*Ocean Explorer* is the perfect addition to our fleet - for adventure, for luxury, and for leading-edge technology, this purpose-built polar expedition ship truly delivers for our

discerning polar explorers," President Andrew White said.

"The depth and breadth of our portfolio of innovative itineraries and polar experiences - from kayaking in Antarctica to flightseeing over the Greenland Ice Sheet - is made possible by the depth and breadth of our fleet," he pronounced.

"Maintaining such a diverse fleet of small polar ships enables guests to customise their voyage, to choose how they want to explore the Polar Regions and experience their expedition of a lifetime," White added.

Ocean Explorer was delivered in 2021 by expedition ship specialist SunStone Maritime Group. *MS*

Ambassador offer

A NEW Ambassador Cruise Line offer, the "Ambassador Guarantee", promises guests who have not previously sailed with the company their money back if they do not enjoy their first sailing.

For further terms and conditions, **CLICK HERE**.

New Pandaw cruise

PANDAW has announced its newest itinerary in India, the 10-day 'The Full Brahmaputra'.

The cruise sails between Guwahati and Dibrugarh, and will debut in Oct.

It will visit the lesser-known Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, and is set to be a popular choice for Pandaw guests, following the reception of its 7-night Brahmaputra cruise.



On location in
Perfect Day at CocoCay

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Royal Caribbean International.

TODAY we are enjoying the final day of a three-day preview cruise aboard Royal Caribbean International's *Icon of the Seas*, and the line is turning up the heat today.

Travel advisors and media from all over the world will enjoy the private island treatment at Perfect Day at CocoCay, one of the major drawcards of Royal Caribbean's suite of land experiences, boasting overwater cabanas and water slides.



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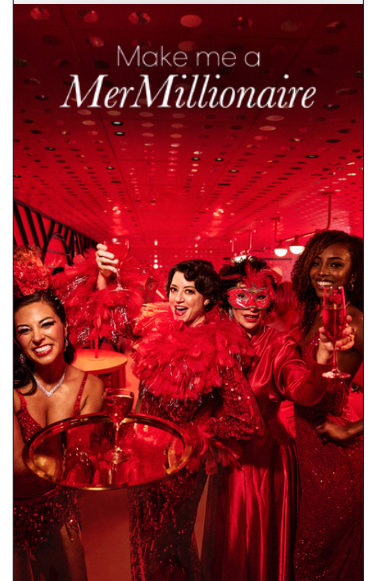
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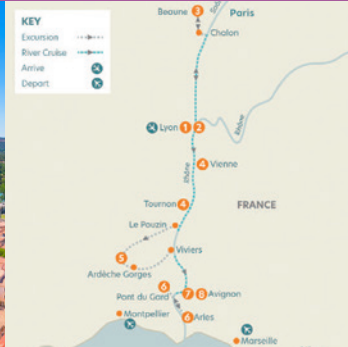


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- Train from Amsterdam to Cologne
- 14-nights' Riviera Travel River Cruise, from Cologne to Budapest aboard *MS Oscar Wilde*
- Three-nights' five-star hotel in Budapest
- Half day tour in Budapest
- Rail and air credit*

Cruise Departure Dates:
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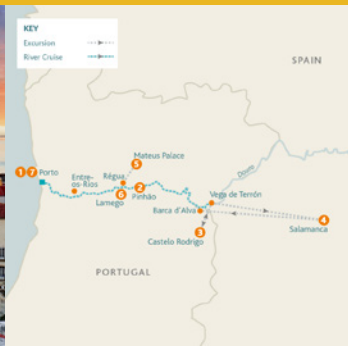


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- Seven-nights' Riviera Travel River Cruise roundtrip from Porto aboard *MS Porto Mirante*
- Return airport and port transfers
- Air credit*

Package Departure Date: 18 Oct 2024
Cruise Departure Date: 31 Oct 2024

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1300 857 437 or email reservations@rivieracruises.com.au

*Terms and conditions apply. Prices are person in Australian dollars and are correct as at 18 January 2024. Book by 31 January 2024. Free Superior Drinks package for 2024 & 2025 departures included. Hotels may charge resort fees or a security bond not included or mentioned in this package, payable direct upon check in. Price is based on a twin-share room type for 2 adults. Medieval Marvels of Europe price is based on a 23APR25 departure and Paris & Provence Palette price is based on a 18OCT24 departure. Flights must be booked by Travel the World in order to utilise any Flight credit offered. Passengers are responsible for any difference in fare between the flight credit amount advertised and the actual cost of the flights selected including taxes and surcharges. Any difference in fare must be paid in full at time of booking. If flights are not required, part of the value of the flight credit advertised may be deducted from the full advertised package price. Not included in cruise fare: gratuities and items of a personal nature unless otherwise stated in the itinerary. Cruise itineraries are not guaranteed and can be changed or cancelled at anytime. Special offers are valid for new bookings only. Change and cancellation conditions apply and will be advised at the time of booking. Package code: RIVPM31OCT24 / RIVLB18OCT24 / RIVOW23042025